



Archer Knob Prescribed Burn

Information: (540) 525-1539



<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3838/>

*USDA Forest Service
George Washington and Jefferson
National Forests*

*North River
Ranger District*

April 23, 2014

Location	The Archer Knob Prescribed Burn will take place on April 24 and 25; however, weather conditions could delay operations until April 26 and 27. The burn is located approximately three miles north of the town of Craigsville, Virginia in Augusta County.
Estimated Acreage	Approximately 6,300 acres
Overview	The Archer Knob Prescribed Burn consists of approximately 6,300 acres of mountainous National Forest System land on the North River Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. Fire personnel began prepping the area by burning the perimeter late last week, and will conduct the main portion of the burn beginning on Thursday, April 24, 2014 (weather permitting). The Archer Knob Prescribed Burn will take at least two days to complete and will utilize a combination of hand and aerial ignition.
Resources	Approximately 50 firefighters and support staff including four engines, a dozer, and a helicopter are assisting with the prescribed burn.
Closures	The following roads will be temporarily closed: Hite Hollow Road (Forest Road 82) and Archer Knob (Forest Road 382). The following trails will be temporarily closed: Great Mountain Trail (#443).
General Fire Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Archer Knob Prescribed Burn will reduce accumulations of forest debris. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fuels such as grass, leaves, and brush accumulate and create fire hazards. By burning the area under controlled conditions these fuels are removed, decreasing the amount of fuel that is available to burn during a wildfire. ○ Many landscapes are out of ecological balance. When the conditions are right, fire is one way to help restore that balance in landscapes so they become more resilient to threats. ○ Removing accumulations of forest debris will reduce the vulnerability of catastrophic wildfire to the communities of Deerfield and Craigsville. • The Archer Knob Prescribed Burn reintroduces fire to critical plant and wildlife habitat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prescribed fire creates healthy forests by reducing vegetation that competes for light, moisture, and nutrients. ○ Scientific research demonstrates that historically, fire occurred every three to fifteen years in oak-hickory forests, promoting plant growth, creating beneficial food, and establishing excellent habitat for many animals • Safety of the public and firefighters is always the number one priority when dealing with wildfires and prescribed burns. • Smoke from the Archer Knob Prescribed Burn may be visible near the communities of Craigsville and surrounding areas for several days. • Homeowners can learn how to make their homes less susceptible to wildfires by visiting: www.firewise.org • Places to find prescribed fire information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inciweb: http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3838/ ○ Twitter: @USFSRegion8 #GWJfire

To be Added to the Information Distribution List, Contact: Michael Williams, Public Information Officer: (540) 525-1539, or mrwilliams04@fs.fed.us